

# Jarbidge River Wilderness Study Area

## 1. The Study Area -- 75,118 acres

The Jarbidge River WSA (ID-17-11) is located in Owyhee County 120 miles southeast of Boise, Idaho. The WSA includes 75,118 acres of BLM lands, four state inholdings totaling 2,560 acres and two privately owned inholdings totaling 80 acres (see Table 1).

The WSA, on both sides of the Jarbidge and West Fork Bruneau Rivers, is bounded mostly by primitive dirt roads. Three cherry-stem roads, totaling five miles, enter the northern part of the area. The WSA consists of a flat to rolling plateau dissected by over 45 miles of canyons. The Jarbidge and West Fork Bruneau Rivers have carved very narrow, meandering courses through rhyolite rock to produce a canyon system 200 to 1,200 feet deep typified by vertical rock walls with thousands of rock spires. In many places, rock monoliths rise directly from the river. In other places, small talus slopes are nested between rock walls and the river or along the canyon rimrock. The slopes of the canyons are covered mostly with big sagebrush species and bunchgrasses. Along the rivers, lush riparian areas are lined with western juniper and dense growths of rushes, sedges, poison ivy and grasses. The canyons are among the most spectacular in the nation. The canyons attract boaters and backpackers seeking physical challenge and isolation.

To the east of the Jarbidge River, the plateau is relatively flat with the exception of Poison Butte. To the west of the Jarbidge River, the plateau is rolling to hilly in nature. Vegetation predominantly consists of big sagebrush-Sandberg bluegrass sites intermixed with smaller areas of big sagebrush-bluebunch wheatgrass and shadscale sites. Burned areas are dominated by almost pure stands of cheatgrass, an invading non-native species.

The WSA was studied under Section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) and was included in the Jarbidge Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement filed in October 1987 at which time the recommendation for wilderness was generated through the planning process. Five alternatives were analyzed in the Jarbidge Wilderness EIS: a partial wilderness alternative where 16,740 acres of BLM land would be designated as wilderness and 58,378 acres would be released for nonwilderness uses, which is the recommendation of this report; an all wilderness alternative; a partial wilderness alternative where 49,881 acres of BLM land would be designated as wilderness and 25,237 acres would be released for nonwilderness uses; a no wilderness alternative where 75,118 acres would be released for nonwilderness uses; and a no wilderness alternative where 18,800 acres of BLM land would be included within the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

## **2. Recommendation and Rationale**

**16,740 acres recommended for wilderness**

**58,378 acres recommended for nonwilderness**

The recommendation for the Jarbidge River WSA is to designate 16,740 acres (the canyons) as wilderness and to release 58,378 acres (the plateaus) for other uses. The environmentally preferable alternative is the all wilderness alternative. It would cause the least change from the natural environment over the long term. The recommendation would use all practical means to avoid or minimize adverse environmental impacts.

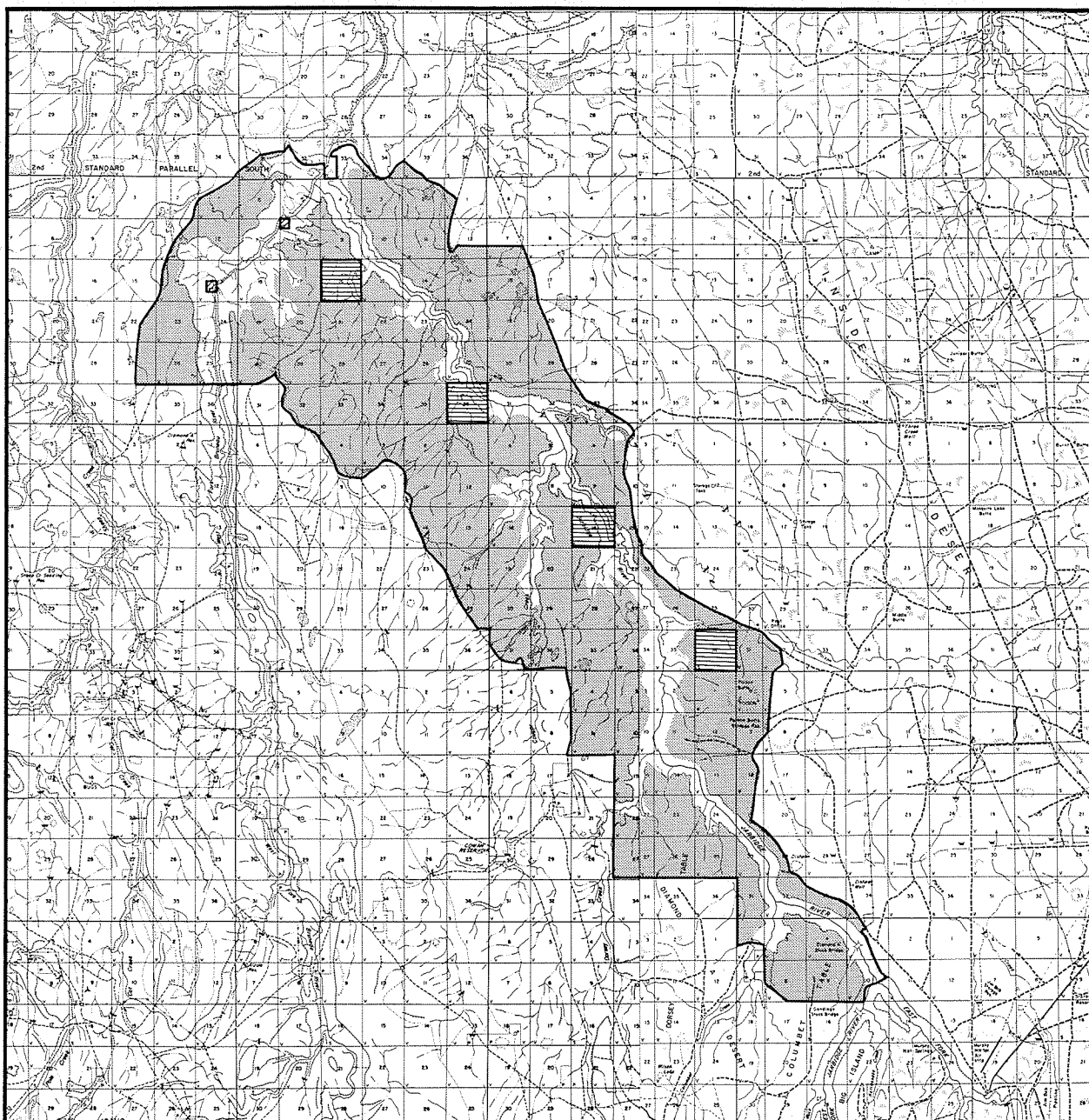
The 16,740 acres of federal land recommended for wilderness designation are shown as the nonshaded area on the Jarbidge River Proposal map. This recommendation would further apply to any inholding acreage if acquired through purchase or exchange with willing owners. Appendix I lists all inholdings and provides additional information on acquisition of these nonfederal lands. The 16,740 acres recommended for wilderness designation would enhance the National Wilderness Preservation System through the addition of 45 miles of spectacularly scenic canyons within a five-hour drive of Boise, Idaho. The canyons offer outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation and solitude within a pristine setting. The Jarbidge and Bruneau Rivers are nationally known for the whitewater boating opportunities. The canyons have educational and scientific importance due to the presence of numerous prehistoric cultural sites and sensitive plant and animal species.

The canyons are recommended for wilderness because conflicts with other resources are minimal. With the exception of two trail crossings, little livestock use occurs because of the inaccessibility of the canyons. The area recommended for wilderness designation has low potential for the development of mineral resources. The canyons are manageable as wilderness due to their extreme ruggedness and their inaccessibility to motor vehicles and because of the well-defined wilderness boundary provided by the upper rims of the canyons. Wilderness designation of the rim-to-rim portions of about 45 miles of canyon (16,740 acres) would provide long-term protection for an exceptionally scenic area with outstanding wilderness characteristics.

The plateau areas (58,378 acres) are not recommended for wilderness designation because of conflicts with other resource uses. In comparison with the canyons and other plateau areas recommended for wilderness, the plateaus of the WSA are less natural and have lower opportunities for solitude due to frequent overflights by military jets. The vegetation on the WSA's plateaus is mostly in poor ecological condition.

A nonwilderness recommendation for the plateau would alleviate conflicts with grazing and range management practices such as seeding, brush control, fencing and livestock water development projects. It would allow vegetative manipulation projects on 6,100 acres to improve California bighorn sheep habitat and use of the plateaus for recreation activities dependent on motor vehicles such as hunting and rock collecting.

With wilderness designation of plateau, options to suppress the numerous lightning-caused wildfires and to reseed burned areas would be severely limited. In the long term, it is anticipated that all remnant areas of native vegetation on the plateaus would be burned off by wildfires. To prevent the invasion of cheatgrass, a non-native annual grass species, burned areas must be reseeded using motorized equipment and non-native, drought-tolerant perennial grass species suitable for wildlife and livestock forage. If cheatgrass is allowed to invade burned areas, cheatgrass stands would cause increased fire problems and consequently soil stability problems. Within other WSAs in southwestern Idaho, such as those in the Jacks Creek and Owyhee Canyonlands areas, large plateau areas with higher wilderness and ecological values have been recommended for wilderness designation.









R.6 E. | R.7 E.

R.7 E. | R.8 E.

R.8 E. | R.9 E.

R.9 E. | R.10 E.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
|  RECOMMENDED FOR WILDERNESS                  |  SPLIT ESTATE |
|  RECOMMENDED FOR NONWILDERNESS               |  STATE        |
|  LAND OUTSIDE WSA RECOMMENDED FOR WILDERNESS |  PRIVATE      |

0 1 2 3 4 5  
Scale in Miles

ID-17-11  
JARBIDGE RIVER  
PROPOSAL

SEPTEMBER 1988

T. 12  
S.

T. 13  
S.

T. 13  
S.

T. 14  
S.

T. 14  
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T. 15  
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T. 15  
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T. 16  
S.

**Table 1 -- Land Status and Acreage Summary of the Study Area  
JARBIDGE RIVER WSA**

**Within Wilderness Study Area**

BLM (surface and subsurface)	75,118
Split Estate (BLM surface only)	0
Inholdings (state, private)	2,640
<b>Total</b>	<b>77,758</b>

**Within the Recommended Wilderness Boundary**

BLM (within WSA)	16,740
BLM (outside WSA)	0
Split Estate (within WSA)	0
Split Estate (outside WSA)	0
<b>Total BLM Land Recommended for Wilderness</b>	<b>16,740</b>
Inholdings (state, private) <sup>1</sup>	770
State land (outside WSA)	0

**Within the Area Not Recommended for Wilderness**

BLM	58,378
Split Estate	0
<b>Total BLM Land Not Recommended for Wilderness</b>	<b>58,378</b>
Inholdings (state, private)	1,870

<sup>1</sup>Appendix I is a detailed description of inholdings included within the area recommended for designation.

### **3. Criteria Considered in Developing the Wilderness Recommendations**

#### **Wilderness Characteristics**

##### **A. Naturalness**

The Jarbidge River WSA consists of a plateau dissected by deep meandering river canyons. While the WSA is predominantly natural, there are several site-specific signs of man which impact naturalness locally. These include two livestock bridges within the canyons, 14 miles of ways, 3.8 miles of fence, eight livestock reservoirs and 1,800 acres of crested wheatgrass seeding on the plateau. The 1,800 acres were seeded after the area was designated as a WSA to prevent the invasion of cheatgrass. Three cherry-stem roads enter the northern part of the WSA. The size, location, number and distribution of these imprints in combination with topographic screening make them substantially unnoticeable in the WSA as a whole.

##### **B. Solitude**

The Jarbidge River WSA provides outstanding opportunities for solitude. More than 45 miles of canyons provide excellent topographic and vegetative screening for visitor groups and excellent potential for dispersing recreation use. West of the Jarbidge River, the large size of the plateau and its rolling nature provide for good topographic screening and for the potential to disperse visitor groups. East of the Jarbidge River, the northern part of the plateau within the WSA provides outstanding opportunities for solitude, while the southern half lacks outstanding opportunities due to its narrowness between the canyon and WSA boundary road and its lack of topographic screening. Solitude is frequently disrupted by low-flying military aircraft en route to the U.S. Air Force bombing range north of the WSA. Due to the lack of topographic screening, sights and sounds of military aircraft are more noticeable from the plateau areas.

##### **C. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation**

The WSA contains outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined recreation. The natural features of the Jarbidge River WSA, especially the canyons, provide a strong recreational attraction to people interested in backpacking, day hiking, sightseeing, photography, wildlife viewing, hunting, fishing, rockhounding and whitewater boating. The canyons attract recreationists seeking physical challenge and isolation. The plateau provides lower quality opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation without the physical demand found in the canyons.

##### **D. Special Features**

The WSA contains habitat and populations of California bighorn sheep, bobcat, river otter and redband trout, all classified as sensitive species. Sensitive plant species found include *Lepidium davisii* and *Leptodactylon glabrum*.

The Jarbidge and Bruneau Rivers have been recommended to Congress for inclusion within the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System as wild rivers. The area has educational and scientific importance due to the numerous prehistoric cultural resources present, many of which have been evaluated as sites eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. These may demonstrate a type of habitation and subsistence activity not previously described in the scientific literature for the Northern Great Basin Culture area. A majority of the cultural sites are located in the canyons.

## Diversity in the National Wilderness Preservation System

### A. Assessing the Diversity of Natural Systems and Features as Represented by Ecosystems

Wilderness designation of the Jarbidge River WSA would not add a new ecosystem or landform to the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS); however, it would add a vegetation and landform not presently represented in the Sagebrush Steppe Ecosystem. This ecosystem is represented by three designated areas with 76,699 acres. There are 35 other BLM study areas in the state under study with this ecosystem. This information is summarized on Table 2.

**TABLE 2**  
**Ecosystem Representation**

Bailey-Kuchler Classification	<u>NWPS Areas</u>		<u>Other BLM Studies</u>	
	areas	acres	areas	acres
Dry Domain/Intermountain Sagebrush Province				
			<u>NATIONWIDE</u>	
Sagebrush Steppe Ecosystem	3	76,699	136	4,359,340
			<u>IDAHO</u>	
Sagebrush Steppe Ecosystem	1	12,997	35	949,916
			<u>NEVADA</u>	
Sagebrush Steppe Ecosystem	1	32,407	29	1,273,919
			<u>CALIFORNIA</u>	
Sagebrush Steppe Ecosystem	0	0	5	152,431
			<u>OREGON</u>	
Sagebrush Steppe Ecosystem	0	0	67	1,983,074

**B. Expanding the Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive Recreation  
Within a Day's Driving Time (Five Hours) of Major Population Centers**

The Jarbidge River WSA is within a five-hour drive from Boise, Idaho. Table 3 summarizes the number and acreage of designated areas and other BLM study areas within a five-hour drive of the population center.

**Table 3**  
**Wilderness Opportunities for Residents  
of Major Population Centers**

Population Centers	<u>NWPS Areas</u>		<u>Other BLM Studies</u>	
	areas	acres	areas	acres
Boise, Idaho	16	4,741,570	141	5,374,250



### **C. Balancing the Geographic Distribution of Wilderness Areas**

The Jarbidge River WSA would not contribute to balancing the geographic distribution of areas within the NWPS. The Jarbidge Wilderness is just north of the WSA in Nevada.

Regionally, the WSA would add a desert canyon system not found in designated wilderness and would help to balance opportunities to attain diverse wilderness experiences.

#### **Manageability**

The portion of the WSA recommended for wilderness, the canyons, is extremely manageable as wilderness due to its ruggedness and lack of conflicts with other resource uses. The only concern is the existence of unpatented mining claims for Bruneau jasper and fire opal at Indian Hot Springs in the extreme northern portion of the WSA. There are numerous mining claims at the Indian Hot Springs area, two of which totaling about five acres, are within the WSA. If these claims are determined to be valid, the removal of jasper would cause a localized loss of wilderness values.

The portion of the WSA recommended for nonwilderness, the plateau, is less manageable as wilderness due to the need for wildfire suppression and for reseeding burned areas to prevent the spread of cheatgrass, an annual grass species introduced from Russia. To prevent the invasion of a thick monoculture of cheatgrass, burned areas must be reseeded using drought-tolerant perennial grasses and motorized equipment. Crested wheatgrass, an introduced species, has proven to be the most reliable perennial grass in effectively suppressing the cheatgrass and in allowing shrubs to reestablish. If cheatgrass is allowed to invade burned areas, cheatgrass stands would cause increased problems in controlling wildfires and, consequently, soil stability problems. Due to the lack of topographic and vegetative barriers, it would also be extremely difficult to prevent unauthorized motor vehicle use on the plateau area east of the Jarbidge River.

#### **Energy and Minerals Resource Values**

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and Bureau of Mines (BM) completed a mineral assessment for 47,000 acres of the Jarbidge River WSA in 1988. The assessment found that the WSA has a low mineral potential for metals. A small placer of gold found was derived from gold mining districts upstream from the WSA. The gold values are too low and the placers are too small and difficult to access to support large-scale mining at a gold price of \$425 an ounce. The deposits could be attractive for recreational panning, sluicing and suction dredging.

At the northern boundary of the WSA near Indian Hot Springs, there is moderate potential for gem-quality Bruneau jasper. There are eight active mining claims for the sole source of this material between the Jarbidge River and Bruneau River-Sheep Creek WSAs. Bruneau jasper is well known to dealers and is in moderate demand. In 1985, wholesale prices of good quality material ranged from \$8 a pound to \$20 a pound.

Geothermal resources are found at the northern end and just south of the southern end of the WSA at Indian Hot Springs and Murphy Hot Springs. The moderate temperature systems are suitable for direct-use application but not for power generation.

The WSA has a low energy resource potential for oil and gas since extensive high-angle faulting has likely precluded any accumulations.

In 1989, a 60-day public review of the USGS/BM mineral survey report for the Jarbidge River WSA was conducted. During the review, comments were submitted which resulted in follow-up consideration by the USGS. Based on this reevaluation, the USGS upgraded the mineral potential rating from low to moderate for undiscovered resources of low-grade, epithermal hot-spring gold and silver deposits in the WSA.

### **Impacts on Resources**

The following comparative impact table summarizes the effects on pertinent resources for all the alternatives considered including designation or nondesignation of the entire area as wilderness.

**Table 4**  
**Comparative Summary of the Impacts by Alternative**  
**WSA ID-17-11 (JARBRIDGE RIVER)**

ISSUE TOPICS	PROPOSED ACTION (PARTIAL WILDER- NESS ALTERNATIVE)	NO WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE	WILD RIVER (NO WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE)	PARTIAL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE	ALL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE
Impacts on Wilderness Values Including Special Features	The canyons, 16,740 acres (22% of WSA), designated as wilderness would receive long-term Congressional protection. All wilderness values in the portions of the WSA which contain the most spectacular scenery and outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation and solitude would be maintained or enhanced. On the 58,378 acres of plateau not designated as wilderness, there would be long-term losses of naturalness on 13,500 acres (18% of WSA) from seedlings.	With the exception of localized losses to naturalness and solitude occurring on limited sites of mineral exploration work, all wilderness values within the canyons would be retained or enhanced. On the plateaus, long-term losses of naturalness of 13,500 acres (18% of WSA) would occur from seedlings.	All wilderness values on 18,800 acres (25% of WSA) of the WSA that contain the most spectacular scenery and outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation and solitude would receive long-term Congressional protection as a wild river. All wilderness values would be maintained or enhanced in the canyons. On the plateaus, long-term loss of naturalness on 13,500 acres (18% of WSA) would occur from seedlings.	All wilderness values on 49,881 acres (66% of WSA) designated as wilderness would receive long-term Congressional protection. All wilderness values in the canyons would be maintained or enhanced. On the plateau areas not within the wilderness, long-term losses of naturalness would occur on 5,600 acres (7% of WSA) from seedlings.	All wilderness values would receive long-term Congressional protection. All wilderness values would be maintained or enhanced.
Impacts on Range Management Project Maintenance and Construction	There would be no impact on range project maintenance and construction. A 738 AUM (15%) increase in livestock use would occur. Proposed projects include 1.4 miles of pipeline, 6 miles of fence, 2 reservoirs and 1 spring development.	There would be no impact on range project maintenance and construction. A 738 (15%) increase in livestock use would occur. Proposed projects include 1.4 miles of pipeline, 6 miles of fence, 2 reservoirs and 1 spring development.	There would be no impact on range project maintenance and construction. A 738 AUM (15%) increase in livestock use would occur. Proposed projects include 1.4 miles of pipeline, 6 miles of fence, 2 reservoirs and 1 spring development.	On the plateaus west of the Jarbridge River, the cost in terms of time and inconvenience of installing new and maintaining post FLPMA (October 21, 1976) projects would approximately double. There would be no impact on the plateaus east of the Jarbridge River. A 409 AUM (8%) increase in livestock use would occur. Proposed projects include 0.6 miles of pipeline and 6 miles of fence.	The cost of installing new fences and of maintaining post FLPMA (October 21, 1976) projects would approximately double in terms of time and inconvenience. A 738 AUM increase in livestock use would be foregone. Proposed projects include 6 miles of fence.
Impacts on Development of Mineral Resources	Potential mineral resources on 58,378 acres of plateau would be available for development. Exclusive of the 5 acres of Bruneau jasper claim, the WSA has low potential for development of mineral resources. Impacts of withdrawal of 16,740 acres from mineral entry and mineral leasing would be insignificant since no development is projected.	With the exception of an existing 80 acre hobby-collecting withdrawal, potential mineral resources would be available for development and there would be no impact on development. Exclusive of the 5 acres of Bruneau jasper claim, the WSA has low potential for development of mineral resources.	Potential mineral resources would be available for development on 56,318 acres. Exclusive of the 5 acres of Bruneau jasper claim, the WSA has low potential for development of mineral resources. Impacts of withdrawal of 18,800 acres from mineral entry and mineral leasing would be insignificant since no development is projected.	Potential mineral resources would be available for development on 25,237 acres. Exclusive of the 5 acres of Bruneau jasper claim, the WSA has low potential for development of mineral resources. Impacts of withdrawal of 49,881 acres from mineral entry and mineral leasing would be insignificant since no development is projected.	With the exception of valid existing rights, potential mineral resources would not be available for development. The potential for development of any additional mineral resource is low. Impacts of withdrawal of 75,118 acres from mineral entry and leasing would be insignificant since no development is protected.
Impacts on Recreational Motor Vehicle Use (continued next page)	Impacts to recreational motor vehicle use would be minimal. On the portion of the WSA accessible by motor vehicle, 16,788 acres (22% of WSA) would remain open to ORV use and, on 41,590 acres (56% of WSA), motor vehicle use would be allowed only on designated routes with	Impacts to recreational motor vehicle use would be minimal. On the portion of the WSA accessible by motor vehicle, 16,788 acres (22% of WSA) would remain open to ORV use and, on 41,590 acres (56% of WSA), motor vehicle use would be allowed only on designated routes with	Impacts to recreational motor vehicle use would be minimal. On the portion of the WSA accessible by motor vehicle, 16,788 acres (22% of WSA) would remain open to ORV use and, on 41,590 acres (56% of WSA), motor vehicle use would be allowed only on designated routes with	On the portion of the WSA accessible by motor vehicle, 16,788 acres (22% of WSA) would remain open to ORV use, 8,499 acres (12% of WSA) would be designated as limited to designated routes and 33,141 acres (44% of WSA) would be closed to recreational motor vehicles. 40 visitor	The entire area would be closed to recreational motor vehicle use. 100 visitor days of recreational motor vehicle use would be foregone annually. The impacts of shifting use to adjacent public lands would be negligible.

ISSUE TOPICS	PROPOSED ACTION (PARTIAL WILDER- NESS ALTERNATIVE)	NO WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE	WILD RIVER (NO WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE)	PARTIAL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE	ALL WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE
Impacts on Recreational Motor Vehicle Use (continued)(Jarbidge River WSA)	minimal impact. Closing 16,740 areas (22% of WSA) in the inaccessible canyon would have no impact.	minimal impact. Limiting use on 16,740 acres (22% of WSA) in the inacces- sible canyon would have no impact.	minimal impact. Limiting use on 16,740 acres (22% of WSA) in the inacces- sible canyon would have no impact.	days of recreational mo- tor vehicle use would be foregone annually. The impacts of shifting use would be negligible. Clos- ing 16,740 acres (22% of WSA) in the inaccessible canyon would have no impact.	

## Local Social and Economic Considerations

Designation of 16,740 acres of the Jarbidge River WSA as wilderness would have no impact on local social and economic values. There were no social or economic issues identified with the study of this WSA.

## Summary of WSA-Specific Public Comments

Public involvement has occurred throughout the wilderness review process. Certain comments received during the inventory process were considered in developing study issues and various management alternatives. During the inventory phase, 29 comments were received. Of the 25 comments supporting WSA designation, six specifically recommended wilderness designation. Four comments stated the area should not be designated a WSA to allow the continuance of existing multiple-use management. The Idaho Department of Lands recommended that state land inholdings be exchanged should the area be designated as wilderness to avoid management conflicts.

During formal public review of the Draft Jarbidge Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement, 96 comments addressed wilderness suitability of the Jarbidge River WSA. Of those, 65 comments supported wilderness designation and 31 opposed wilderness designation. One of the opposing comments was a petition containing 48 signatures.

Those opposing wilderness cited that designation is needed to protect the wilderness values and the special features of both the canyons and plateaus. Most wilderness supporters wanted wilderness designation of the entire WSA.

Those opposing designation were concerned that wilderness would place restrictions on livestock management, remove the area from mineral exploration and development and prevent recreational motor vehicle use. About one-half of the comments opposing wilderness designation supported national wild river designation.

Three government agencies commented specifically on this WSA. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game stated that inclusion of plateaus containing California bighorn sheep habitat within the wilderness is essential to protect the habitat and to allow increases of bighorns to viable levels. The Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation supported a wilderness suitability recommendation of 49,881 acres. The Idaho Air National Guard opposed wilderness designation because of possible conflicts with its tactical flight training missions.

**APPENDIX I -- JARBIDGE RIVER WSA**  
**Estimated Costs of Acquisition of Nonfederal Holdings**  
**Within Areas Recommended for Designation(1)**

			Type of Ownership by Estate	Type of Ownership by Estate			Estimated Cost of Acquisition	Estimated Cost of Acquisition
Legal Description	Total Acreage	Number of Owners	Surface Estate	Subsurface Estate	Presently Proposed for Acquisition	Preferred Method of Acquisition	Land Costs (in \$)	Processing Costs (in \$)
Parcel No. 1 T. 13 S., R. 6 E. Sec. 13	40	1	Private	Private	Yes	Exchange	N/A	1,500
Parcel No. 2 T. 13 S., R. 7 E. Sec. 8	40	1	State	State	Yes	Exchange	N/A	1,500
Parcel No. 3 T. 13 S., R. 7 E. Sec. 16	640(2)	1	State	State	Yes	Exchange	N/A	3,400
Parcel No. 4 T. 13 S., R. 7 E. Sec. 36	640(2)	1	State	State	Yes	Exchange	N/A	3,400
Parcel No. 5 T. 14 S., R. 8 E. Sec. 16	640(2)	1	State	State	Yes	Exchange	N/A	3,400

(1)The estimated costs listed in this appendix in no way represent a formal appraised value of the land or mineral estate but are rough estimates based on sales or exchanges of lands or mineral estates with similar characteristics to those included in the WSA. The estimates are for purposes of establishing a range of potential costs to the government of acquiring nonfederal holdings and in no way represent an offer to purchase or exchange at the cost estimate included in this appendix.

(2)Only portion of this acreage is within area recommended for designation. Acquisition through exchange would necessitate acquisition of entire parcel.